

## REGENTS' ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HISTORY

Minutes  
13 April 2001  
Augusta State University

Attending: Diane Willen of Georgia State University (Chair); Mike Price of Armstrong Atlantic State University; Mel Steely of the State University of West Georgia; Rick Reiman of South Georgia College; Jim Bagwell of Georgia Southwestern State University; Bill Mugleston of Floyd College; David Williams of Valdosta State University; Georgia Mann of North Georgia College & State University; John L. Rhodes of Fort Valley State University; John Hutcheson of Dalton State College; John Lupold of Columbus State University; Susanna Weaver of the Medical College of Georgia; John D. Fair of Georgia College & State University; Pam Colbenso of Georgia Perimeter College; Wayne Mixon of Augusta State University; John Derden of East Georgia College; Don Kagay of Albany State University; John Ricks of Middle Georgia College; Gene Hatfield of Clayton College & State University; Warren Rogers of Gainesville College; Ann Pullen of Kennesaw State University; Jonathan Bryant of Georgia Southern University; Jonathan House of Gordon College. Guest: Joseph Szutz, Assistant Vice Chancellor-Planning.

Dr. Diane Willen of Georgia State University, Chair of the Regents' Academic Advisory Committee on History, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Towers of Washington Hall at Augusta State University. She introduced Dr. Wayne Mixon, Chair of the Department of History, and Dr. Bill Bloodworth, President of Augusta State University, who welcomed the Committee members and Dr. Joseph Szutz, Assistant Vice Chancellor-Planning and liaison between the Central Office and the Committee, to the Augusta State campus. The attending members of the Committee then introduced themselves individually. On a motion by Dr. Mike Price, seconded by Wayne Mixon, the minutes of the 2000 meeting of the Committee at Darton College were approved unanimously.

Dr. Willen recognized and welcomed Dr. Szutz, who presented a report covering the following topics:

1. Copies of Legislative Updates 1 and 11, on the FY 01 Supplemental Budget and the FY 02 USG Salary and Formula Recommendations, were distributed. Dr. Szutz noted that the 2001 Legislative Session had been good for the University System, though Governor Barnes focuses more on the K-12 sector than Governor Miller did. Governor Barnes, however, remains a friend of higher education, and the General Assembly continues to hold the USG "harmless" from the drop in FTE due to semester conversion. The funding formula is under discussion, though, and is likely to be modified over the next couple of years. A discussion of this point followed.
2. The USG Comprehensive Program Review Policy and Procedures were discussed, drawing on a memo from Senior Vice Chancellor Daniel Papp to the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, an agenda item from the BoR meeting of October 2000, Board *Policy Manual* Section 205.01, and a Model for Program Review provided by the

Central Office. Dr. Szutz gave an overview of program review, noting that it was prompted by a state audit but was also a continuation of Chancellor Portch's emphasis on accountability. Institutional autonomy is the underlying premise, to be exercised within general guidelines, concerning trigger mechanisms and similar matters, established by the Central Office.

3. Benchmarking as a basis for performance accountability in the USG was reviewed, using a package of PowerPoint slides from a recent meeting. Dr. Szutz pointed out that the most pressing question the benchmarking process may illuminate concerns 4-year graduation rates, currently averaging 39% Systemwide.
4. SACS Substantive Change visitations were discussed, using a handout which summarized the triggering mechanisms for these focused visits and listed the documentation most likely to be demanded.
5. *The New Georgia Encyclopedia*, described in a handout, invites participation from all USG faculty.
6. Georgia's Pre-school--Post-secondary (P-16) Initiative and its ramifications for teacher preparation in Georgia were discussed.

Dr. Willen reported to the Committee on business conducted since the 2000 meeting. At that meeting the Committee responded to the increasing presence of education courses in Area F of the Core Curriculum by unanimously adopting the following motion:

The Regents' Advisory Committee on History believes that Area F of the core curriculum in the University System should not be compromised for History majors, including those majors who are pursuing a broad-based degree in secondary education.

Dr. Willen was instructed to forward this motion to Dr. Dorothy Zinsmeister, Senior Associate for Academic Affairs in the Central Office, which was done on 6 June 2001. No acknowledgement has been received from Dr. Zinsmeister's office.

At its 2000 meeting the Committee also addressed the subject of electronic course delivery and the eCore project, adopting the following motion:

The Regents' Advisory Committee on History wishes to express its concern that electronic courses developed to satisfy general education requirements, known also as eCore courses, include provisions for proctored exams at secured testing centers.

Dr. Willen forwarded this motion on 2 June 2001 to Dr. Joan Lord, chair of the Faculty Oversight Committee. Dr. Lord replied that the eCore coordinating committee had already recommended that each eCore course include at least one proctored assessment which must represent a significant part of the course grade.

In September 2001 a meeting of all RAAC chairs to discuss various aspects of eCore was held in Macon. Dr. Willen attended and obtained a list of Student Learning Outcomes For the eCore Curriculum which had been approved by the USG Council on General Education. Copies of this document were distributed to members of the Committee.

Further discussion of eCore issues was led by Dr. Rick Reiman of South Georgia College and Dr. Bill Mogleston of Floyd College. Dr. Reiman reported that History 2111 was taught in eCore format in Fall 2000 and Spring 2001. The course included ten graded essay/discussion assignments, a midterm examination, and a final examination. The final examination is usually the proctored assessment tool. There is no doubt that students learned a great deal, but the course is very labor-intensive for the instructors. The eCore courses in history and other disciplines have won awards from the producers of the WebCT software used in them. There are questions regarding cost-effectiveness, the high withdrawal rates (as much as 50%/a), and the higher fees charged for such courses compared to those delivered conventionally. Dr. Mogleston distributed a memo evaluating his experience from Rob Page, one of the instructors, and mentioned that eCore versions of the world history survey and the second half of the United States history survey are being planned.

Other agenda items included a consideration of the USG's European Union program and a proposal for pursuing a grant to support a collaboration between the RAAC's in History and English to investigate expanded training in non-Western materials. Dr. Willen requested information on participation in the European Union program and found that some institutions are involved at various levels, while others have no involvement at all. An appropriate on-line course is in preparation. Dr. John Lupold of Columbus State University reported that funding was not available for the History-English project.

No new business was brought before the Committee, but there was a general discussion on how budgetary issues and the definition of measurable learning outcomes were emerging as increasingly pressing concerns.

The final item of business was the election of a Committee chair for the 2002-2003 academic year. Since the rotation scheme called for the next chair to come from a regional university, the Nominating Committee proposed Dr. John Fair of Georgia College & State University, who was elected by acclamation.

Dr. Willen adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hutcheson  
Chair-elect